

This is a reminder that the next GE-Housatonic CCC Meeting is Wednesday, Oct 2, 2002. In this notice you will find:

- 1) an agenda for the upcoming meeting
- 2) notes from previous meeting
- 3) notice of King St. dump meeting from Sue Keydal
- 4) action items for that meeting and
- 5) a list of CSTAG members from Tim Conway

GE-Housatonic River Citizen's Coordinating Council
Berkshire Athenaeum
Pittsfield, MA
October 2, 2002
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Harry Manasewich, MA Office of Dispute Resolution
Assistant Facilitator: Cliff McCarthy, MA Office of Dispute Resolution

Project web site: www.epa.gov/region01/ge

Proposed Agenda

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| 5:30 - 5:40 | Welcome and Introductions (by Facilitator) |
| 5:40 - 5:50 | Review of Proposed Agenda and Notes of Last Meeting (by Facilitator) |
| 5:50- 7:00 | Updates (includes follow-up questions and answers) |
| * | General Electric (by Mike Carrol and team) |
| * | U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (by Bryan Olson) |
| * | MA Department of Environmental Protection (by Susan Steenstrup) |
| * | Natural Resources Damages (by Dale Young) |
| 7:00- 7:15 | Action Items: Report and Discussion (by Facilitator) |
| 7:15- 7:30 | Next Steps: Discussion (by Facilitator) |
| * | Future Agenda Items |
| * | Next Meeting |

Meeting Notes
September 4, 2002

Prepared by the Massachusetts Office of Dispute Resolution.

Lead Facilitator: Harry Manasewich
Assistant Facilitator: Cliff McCarthy

Project web site: www.epa.gov/region01/ge

Participants and Introductions

There were 14 members of the CCC present. There were 12 people in the audience. All members introduced themselves.

Review of May 1st Meeting Highlights: The notes were reviewed. There were no corrections to May 1st Meeting Highlights.

Agenda Review

Assistant facilitator Cliff McCarthy requested to audiotape the meeting for the sole purpose of taking better notes and asked if anyone objected. No one did.

The proposed agenda was reviewed and agreed upon by all. Benno Friedman requested some time for a discussion at the end of the agenda.

Presentation: Contaminated Sediment Technical Advisory Group (CSTAG); by Bryan Olson, EPA

CSTAG is a national review board for sediment management that is performing site visits around the country. Coming to Pittsfield at the end of October. Have released a document identifying eleven risk management principles and they are seeking input from stakeholders at each site.

Mostly focused on "Rest of River", but discussions may branch out to include other aspects of the project.

Bryan has identified CCC members and organizations and most will be contacted by CSTAG. They will also take written comments.

Discussion

Questions were posed about the composition and mission of CSTAG. It is not a political group, rather, it is a technical review board and includes 1 person from each EPA region - this region chose a project manager. Other government entities have been invited as well as others, including GE and MA Department of Fish and Wildlife. The charge of the group is to look at all aspects of contaminated sediment management.

Updates

General Electric - by Mike Carroll, Andy Silfer, & Richard Gates

Brownfields activity: is on-going. Power plant demolition is substantially complete. Beginning asbestos removal at Bldgs 33 & 34 sometime this month. GE is currently working with Pittsfield Economic Development Authority (PEDA) to complete master site plan.

1/2mile in-river work complete. Majority of bank restoration complete. Finishing sheet pile removal. Planting the banks. Demobilization activity remaining, pipeline, access roads. 6400 cubic yards of bank; 11,800 cubic yards of sediment removed. Since Oct '99 commencement approx. 170-180 million gallons treated.

EPA stated that some of GE's sampling indicated TOCs in excess of required 0.5%, the normal TOC content of sand. Post placement sampling of the cap with new analytical methodology indicated levels less than 0.5%. Decided to mix in additional organic carbon in cap to be placed from that point forward. Not sure if makes a significant difference in the real world. Need to determine all contributing factors to evaluate. Will do a lot more sampling to confirm cap is functioning as designed.

Discussion

There was a request to see a package or a presentation describing all the on-going monitoring. This is important to members, since this is the only means of knowing whether cap is working as predicted. EPA may do more monitoring based on previous results, like supplementing the monitoring of sediments and even the banks. They will also put something together - a handout with a short presentation for a future meeting. They will also put this in the repository and noted that they intend to keep updating as in the EPA regular quarterly reports.

A member noted that the intention was to get vast majority of PCBs out. The cap was an added safety factor. Removal was more stringent than anticipated - removed 60% more source than expected. Need to see this in context of whole clean-up.

In regards to what would trigger a concern, EPA said that it was not clear-cut. You know it when you see it. Results indicate not behaving as expected. EPA is concentrating efforts on making sure all barriers work. None of this happens overnight.

In regards to whether the 1/2 mile phase include the landfill, EPA stated that the landfill is a big monitoring issue, but it's not a problem for the river. EPA can report on monitoring the landfill, as well, but monitoring the river is a more immediate concern.

In response to a question on why some monitoring wells had been removed, EPA said that certain wells have been decommissioned. If they were not being used for monitoring, then they constituted a possible migration pathway. If they were being used for monitoring, then additional wells have been added in better locations to compensate. Huge network of groundwater wells could be subject of a presentation on a future agenda.

Residential fill program: GE noted that 324 samples, 171 have or will require remediation.

Target is to remediate this year - hoping for approvals and to start work very soon.

Commercial: Continue to sample at Dalton Ave & Commercial St., trying to remediate one property at Commercial St. this season

Newell St.-I data being obtained. Start Newell St.-II sampling very soon. Lyman St. sampling is on-going. Oxbow A & C area plan to be submitted to EPA Sept. 2. Sampling Phase I of mile and 1/2 floodplain.

The Facilitator expressed the appreciation of the CCC to GE for the site visit which was held at the June meeting. He also took the opportunity to inform everyone that Connecticut government CCC representatives are under an out-of-state travel ban, meaning that CT DEP will not be attending these meetings for awhile.

EPA - by Bryan Olson & Tim Conway

Mile & 1/2: preparation is underway. Water treatment plant prepared to take water for treatment. Beginning to cut trees in Oxbow B area. Should be in the river working by Oct. 1.

Easement issues have been resolved. EPA reached agreement with every property owner in first phase of the project. Compensated easement agreements and one voluntary access agreement.

Discussion

There was a question on the threshold of contamination that would halt activity in the "mile & 1/2". EPA said that probably only floating product or something unexpected like that. Most other recontamination would be slow -- a longer term issue.

Other questions regarded how long Lyman street will be used as a staging area and a request for a timeline for remedial activities in Pittsfield in areas outside of the river. EPA noted that Lyman street might be used for quite a while, perhaps the length of the project. In regards to the timeline, EPA noted that some of the dates have changed. Mill St. commercial property is complicated. Lots of property owners. Hopefully, sometime next construction season.

There was a query about efforts to continually monitor Goodrich Pond, Commercial St., and Unkamet Brook during stormwater events. EPA said that they have done storm-event and non-storm-event surface water sampling. Also, conducting new sampling there. Levels in sediments above Newell St. very low (<1 ppm). Don't believe Goodrich Pond is an issue at this time, but may change based on future info. EPA is doing lots of work on properties that Tim Gray has brought to their attention.

Repositories: EPA has visited the Connecticut information repositories and found that not all information is there. They are working to make sure repositories are more complete.

Discussion

Questions to clarify decisions made about what information should be in the repositories. Anything related to the river will be there. A member felt that CT People should have access to a

hard-copy of everything and that EPA was not doing enough. EPA noted that they have given more public access to information on this site than on any project in New England or even the country. They also will ensure that anyone who requests any public document will get it. Monthly reports are also available that update all aspects of the project. Upon the request of a member, an index of available documents (as in the Pittsfield repository) will be put in the CT repositories.

MA DEP - Susan Steenstrup

Staffing update: Lyn Cutler has not had baby yet, but will be gone for many months on leave. Voluntary furloughs at DEP mean that only one DEP staff will attend these meetings.

King St. Dump - city in process of contracting out for remaining work - project on hold. Tentative schedule (unofficial): Hope to complete CSA field work by Nov 28 with final report by March 7.

Deming St. - work on-going. Some groundwater contamination. Trying to link site contamination with that found in bank and in sediments.

Elm St. Mobil - sheen found in borings downgradient of site. Investigating again. Audit section is proposing additional wells between station and the river. Need to delineate extent of NAPL and dissolved plume. Need to prove system will capture extent and prevent migration to "mile and 1/2".

Discussion:

Questions about the source of the sheen and whether it was PCB's. It is thought to be gasoline but not clear yet. DEP does not believe it is PCB's but noted that it is still important, so as not to interfere with or complicate other cleanups. PCBs now being delineated because adjacent to Oxbow areas A & C that received contaminated fill.

Natural Resources Damages (NRD); by Tom O'Brien

The Facilitator noted that Dale Young could not be here to report. Tom O'Brien offered to update everyone on the NRD work he oversees. Tom said he was very pleased with results for "1/2 mile". Plant material protected and growing very well. Hoped-for diversity beginning to show.

Inspection/monitoring to last until about 2010.

CT Subcommittee, by Judy Herkimer

Last meeting was well attended by people with a wide variety of interests: environmentalists, anglers, boaters, even an aquaculturist. A representative from CT DPH was there and discussed fish consumption along the river and signage issues. Revisited repository issues. There was some press in attendance. Some issues with NRD meeting held at private utility location, but venue was changed to a public location.

Discussion:

Some questions about the zebra mussels in rivers and that the hydroelectric company would be interested. Judy noted that there is lots of signage about washing boats to stem the spread of the zebra mussels - more than warnings about fish consumption.

Announcements and Other Issues

Rachel Fletcher described Housatonic River Restoration grant program for educational programs. Not just for schools. Deadline is November 1st. Materials distributed.

Tim Gray spoke about the mini-conferences HRI held last spring. The first focused on PCBs and Health Issues and the panel is deliberating and will be producing a white paper on health issues at contaminated sites. The second looked at Alternative Technologies for Treating PCBs. Interesting presentations; some vendors promoting their companies. White paper also due out, soon.

Benno Friedman asked to discuss the possibility of a pilot project to try one or more of the alternatives described at the HRI conference. He believes treatment is effective, viable economically, and safe. Several technologies were cost competitive. Would like to see applied to aspects of "Rest of River" cleanup.

Tom O'Brien of EPA added that he, too, was impressed by presentations and by the possibilities for re-use of the by-products, which could offset costs of treatment.

Bryan agreed that possibilities for re-use of by-product were interesting. EPA has a program that is looking at experimental technologies. If EPA-funded, any decision to try alternative technologies would have to come from a consensus. There might be funding for this, at some point, but it's too soon in the process to know what the "Rest of River" cleanup might involve.

Mike Carroll said that it's too early to know whether remediation will be required. Any decision would have to involve discussions with EPA, but if the benefits were apparent, GE would consider it.

Rachel Fletcher emphasized that a program using an alternative technology will take time, so it's not too early to start. Thinks pilot project is a good idea.

Benno raised issue of comparative costs, emphasizing that true costs of landfilling should include costs of long-term monitoring and other steps necessary in meeting performance standards.

EPA will discuss with GE. They will get more information about funding possibilities and will report back to group by next meeting.

Suggestion from the audience to check in once every year to track the progress of these technologies and the various studies.

Wrap-Up and Adjourn

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 2, 2002 5:30 pm

Meeting Notice

Please join City and State Officials for an informational meeting about closure activities and site investigations at the former King Street dump site.

Date: September 30, 2002

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Conte Community School Cafeteria,
200 West Union St, Pittsfield, MA

For more information please call

Ward 7 Councilor Joseph Guzzo at 499-1673, Mayor Sara Hathaway at 499-9321, or DEP
Project Manager Sue Keydel at (413)755-2250

**GE-HOUSATONIC RIVER
CITIZENS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Action Item Tracking List

From 9-4-02 Meeting as Reported at 10-2-02 meeting

Facilitator: Harry Manasewich, MA Office of Dispute Resolution

Assistant Facilitator: Cliff McCarthy, MA Office of Dispute Resolution

ACTION ITEMS

Entry Date	Item	Responsible	Deadline
9-4-02	Put together a handout about on-going monitoring. Put in repository and distribute.	EPA	10-2-02
9-4-02	Presentation for a future meeting on on-going monitoring	EPA	TBD
9-4-02	Organize presentation on network of groundwater wells.	EPA	TBD
9-4-02	Put index of available documents (as in the Pittsfield repository) in the CT repositories.	EPA	Ongoing
9-4-02	Per Benno's request, discuss possibility of funding a pilot project to try one or more of the alternatives described at the HRI conference. EPA to discuss with GE. They will get more information about funding possibilities and will report back to group by next meeting.	EPA	Ongoing
9-4-02	Distribute list of CSTAG membership	EPA	10-2-02

UPDATES

Entry Date	Item	Responsible	Deadline
Ongoing	GE	Mike Carroll	Ongoing
Ongoing	DEP	J. Lyn Cutler	Ongoing
Ongoing	EPA	Bryan Olson	Ongoing
Ongoing	NRD	Dale Young	Ongoing
Ongoing	CT Subcommittee Report	Ruth Malins Judy Herkimer	Quarterly

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CITIZENS COORDINATING COUNCIL**

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From 9-4-02 Meeting as Reported at 10-2-02 meeting

Facilitator: Harry Manasewich, MA Office of Dispute Resolution

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<i>COMPLETED ITEMS REPORTED AT PREVIOUS MEETING</i>			
Entry Date	Item	Responsible	Date Completed
4/3/02	Invite EPA person to speak on New Bedford Harbor PCB Cleanup	Facilitator & Bryan	ongoing
5/1/2002	Send press releases to both MA and CT papers	Kirk Fallis	May 8, 2002
5/1/02	Request that MA DPH extend the comment period after the date of the next Advisory Meeting	Bryan Olson	June 5, 2002
5/1/02	Date of the King Street Dump Public Meeting	Susan Steenstrup	As Soon As Available
5/1/02	Directions to the Site Visit meeting spot	Facilitator	May 22, 2002

Contaminated Sediments Technical Advisory Group

Office	Member Alternate/CC	Job	Phone No.
R1	Kymberlee Keckler	RPM (FF sites)	617-918-1385
R2	Mel Hauptman	Pre-Remedial Sites Section Chief	212-637-4338
R3	Randy Sturgeon	RPM (Kanawha)	215-814-3227
R4	Al Hanke	Division Advisor	404-562-8954
R5	Tom Short Bonnie Eleder	RPM Sediment Team Mgr	312-353-8826 312-886-4885
R6	John Meyer	RPM	214-665-6742
R7	Craig Smith	Branch Chief/NRRB member	913-551-7683
R8	Judith McCulley	RPM (FF sites)	303-312-6667
R9	Fred Schauffler	RPM (PV Shelf)	415-972-3174
R10	Allison Hilter Karen Keeley	RPM (Low. Duwamish) RPM	206-553-2140 206-553-2141
ORD/NAR	Barbara Bergen Skip Nelson	research chemist research biologist	401-782-3059
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OERR	Leah Evison	geologist	703-603-9022